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June 19, 1939.

Morning Translation.

Sin Shun Pao (Japanese-owned Chinese language newspaper):

"BRITISH SOLDIERS AT THE GREAT WESTERN ROAD SUB-STATION  
OF THE SHANGHAI CITY GOVERNMENT POLICE BUREAU COMPLETELY  
WITHDRAWN : BARBED WIRE BARRICADES VOLUNTARILY REMOVED"

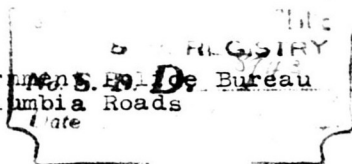
The Great Western Road Sub-Station of the Western District Branch of the Shanghai City Government was unlawfully closed by the British military authorities on January 5. As its existence is necessary for the maintenance of peace and order in that area, the Branch Police Bureau the other day detailed policemen to re-open the main gate of the sub-station. This met with unlawful interference from the British defence force and a tense situation ensued.

Subsequently, an agreement was reached between Mr. "Niu-Keh", the Officer-in-Charge of Bubbling Well Police Station, and Wong Tuh-ling (王德林), the Chief of the Branch Police Bureau.

It is learned that at 1.20 p.m. June 18, the British soldiers were completely withdrawn, while the barbed wire barricades were voluntarily removed.

On June 18, Sergeant Ma Wen-sin (馬文星) and nine police constables from the Zikawei Branch Police Bureau were detailed to the sub-station.

Memorandum on Shanghai City Government Police Bureau  
Sub-Station Great Western and Columbia Roads



On June 17, 1939, information was received by the Municipal Police to the effect that members of the Shanghai City Government Police Bureau had gained entry into the sub-station situated at the junction of Great Western and Columbia Roads, by breaking down the rear door. This act was in contravention of a decision of the British Defence Sector Commander and the British military were informed, following which a guard was left outside the premises.

At 1.57 p.m. the same day a further message was received stating that a large party of Shanghai City Government Police Bureau personnel armed with rifles and "mausers" had arrived at the sub-station, and that several police constables were engaged demolishing the barbed wire barricades erected by the British Military at the front entrance of the station, whilst the remainder were deployed along the foot-path on either side of the roadway.

Immediately following receipt of this message, the Commissioner of Police, and senior officials of the Municipal Police were informed; the Reserve Unit was called out.

Following the arrival of Police and British Military details, the officer in charge of the Shanghai City Government Police Bureau personnel was advised to withdraw his unit into the sub-station; Superintendent Wong of the same body was later interviewed, when he was informed of the British military requirements by the Deputy Commissioner (Divisions). After subsequent negotiations with

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Major Ashmore, Brigade Major, it was decided to allow the Shanghai City Government Police Bureau to function provided (1) that no police use the roadway outside the station; (2) that police patrols use the rear door and side entrance during the course of their duties. These conditions were referred to Lieut.-Colonel Igarashi, who after consultation with Superintendent Wong, agreed with the provisions. The latter officer revisited the sub-station later the same day and instructed the staff accordingly.

Following the acceptance of the terms by the Shanghai City Government Police Bureau Authorities, the British military removed the barricades from the sub-station.

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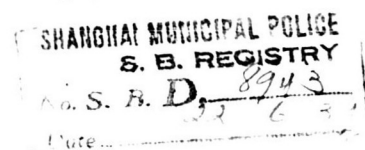
Shanghai Municipal Police,  
June 18, 1939.

SHANGHAI CITY GOVERNMENT SUB-STATION, GREAT WESTERN ROAD.

The status of the City Government Police Sub-Station at the Junction of Great Western and Columbia Roads yesterday became the subject of negotiations between the S.M.P. and the City Government Police. These negotiations have now been concluded to the satisfaction of both parties.

The British troops in whose defence sector the sub-station lies have been withdrawn from the immediate vicinity of the sub-station following the successful conclusion of the negotiations between the respective police authorities.

The City Police are to be permitted to occupy the building with police constables. They have undertaken not to function outside the front of the building adjoining the Municipal road and that for their movements they will utilize the side entrance having access into City Government Territory. In consideration of this undertaking the barbed wiring has been removed from the front entrance of the building.



Sin Shun Pao (Japanese-owned Chinese language newspaper) :-

22.6.39 (AM)

THE SUB-STATION ON GREAT WESTERN ROAD

The sub-station on Great Western Road of the Western Branch of the Police Bureau of the Shanghai City Government was illegally closed by the British Defence Force.

As a result of the undaunted spirit on the part of the police officers of the Western District Bureau, the sub-station was restored to its former condition on June 18.

It is learned that Liang Hung-tse (梁鴻志), President of the Executive Yuan of the "Reformed Government" has sent a telegram of encouragement to Mayor Fu Siao-en in connection with the re-opening of this sub-station.

JUN 19 1939

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## Settlement Is Reached On Station

City Government Police  
Will Not Function On  
Municipal Roadway

After lengthy negotiations on Saturday and yesterday morning between the Shanghai Municipal Police, on behalf of the British Military authorities, and the City Government Police, a settlement was reached on the status of the Shanghai City Government Sub-Station at the junction of Great Western and Columbia Roads.

In a communique issued yesterday, the Shanghai Municipal Police announced that the negotiations have now been concluded to the satisfaction of both parties. The settlement was reached after the City Government Police undertook not to function outside the front of the building adjoining the Municipal road and that for their movements they will utilize the side entrance having access into City Government Territory.

On Saturday a tense situation developed on the scene as from about midnight on Friday night Chinese policemen of the City Government moved into the police station, which had been closed by the British military authorities at the beginning of the year. At about two o'clock in the afternoon, about 100 fully armed City Government policemen assembled there. Reinforcements of East Surreys and Shanghai Municipal Police were called out and rushed to the scene in trucks. Upon request of the British military, the City Government policemen withdrew to their territory. Later the British authorities decided to place barbed wiring in front of the building, but did not do so when it was learnt that negotiations were progressing smoothly. Guards of East Surreys and Shanghai Municipal Police were maintained outside the Sub-Station throughout Saturday night and yesterday morning until a settlement was reached.

In the official announcement, the Shanghai Municipal Police states:

"The British troops, in whose defence sector the sub-station lies, have been withdrawn from the immediate vicinity of the sub-station following the successful conclusion of the negotiations between the respective police authorities.

"The City Police are to be permitted to occupy the building with police constables. They have undertaken not to function outside the front of the building adjoining the Municipal road and that for their movements they will utilize the side entrance having access into City Government Territory. In consideration of this undertaking the barbed wiring has been removed from the front entrance of the building."

JUN 18 1939

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
 No. S. B. D. 15736  
 Date

## Police Sub-station Again Occupied By Chinese

Junction Of Great Western And Columbia Roads  
 Scene Of Parleys Yesterday; Police Leave  
 On Request; Amicable Settlement Seen

A certain amount of tension prevailed in the western outside area yesterday, following the re-occupation by the City Government Police of the Sub-Station at the junction of Great Western and Columbia Roads at about midnight on Friday night by way of the back entrance. The station was closed early this year by the British Military.

Tension reached its peak shortly after 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon when, in addition to about 40 fully armed City Government policemen, who were in the Sub-Station and vicinity, another 60 men crossed Great Western Road, from the Fah Hwa Village East, and joined them. The few sentries of the East Surrey Regiment and the Settlement Police, who were on guard outside the station at the time, were reinforced, and, upon the request of the British Military the City Government Policemen withdrew.

Negotiations were being carried on from early morning until late last night by Inspector F. W. Dudley, officer in-charge of Bubbling Well Police, and Colonel Wang, officer-in-charge of City Government Police in that area with a view to coming to an understanding.

The negotiations were being conducted by the Shanghai Municipal Police on behalf of the British Military. No settlement was reported as Colonel Wang had to report to his superiors, but it is understood that the City Government police have been asked not to use the front door on Great Western Road but the back door in

their own territory.

At about 3.45 yesterday afternoon, British Military trucks drove up with barbed wire and iron rods. The British soldiers immediately commenced to nail up the sub-station door and windows and drove rods into the ground in preparation to barricade the station.

Shortly after 4 o'clock the order was cancelled, in view, it is understood of the favourable progress of negotiations. The British Tommies removed the barbed wire and iron rods. Most of the British troops and Settlement Police were withdrawn by 4.40 p.m., several remaining on guard outside the police station to see that no City Government policemen operated along the Settlement road, which is in the British Defence Sector.

Ranking officers of the Shanghai Municipal Police headed by Deputy

Commissioner H. M. Smith, O.B.E., and Assistant Commissioner A. H. Samson were on the scene, in addition to Major B. H. Ashmore, British Brigade Major, and Major S. R. Hunt, Liaison Officer with the Japanese Forces.

It is understood that the British Military maintain that the City Government police cannot function along a Settlement Road in the British Defence Sector and have requested the City Government to keep the door of the Sub-Station leading on to Great Western Road closed.

British officials last night were confident that an amicable settlement would be agreed upon.

JUN 18 1939

## Minor Incident at "Ta Tao" Station

**British Troops on Duty  
On Great Western Road;  
Negotiations Under Way**

Men of the East Surrey Regiment were on duty on the South side of Great Western Road near Columbia Road up to a late hour last night, opposite the "Ta Tao" police station which members of that force opened at 6.10 a.m. yesterday, after it had been barricaded off in January by order of the British Military authorities. Negotiations between the British Command and the Japanese authorities were understood to have been under way since late yesterday afternoon with a view to coming to some agreement, and indications were that an amicable settlement of the fate of this station would be reached probably some time today.

As will be recalled, the station was barricaded off in such a manner as to close any exit unto Settlement roads and the "Ta Tao" authorities were given to understand at the time that the front door could be used by uniformed men, as this was contrary to previous agreements made between the authorities concerned.

### Ta Tao Police Enter, Leave

Yesterday's incident started when at 6.10 a.m., a number of Ta Tao policemen opened the barricaded front-door and established themselves in the station. The British military authorities in whose sector that part of the Settlement is situated, were informed and a steel-helmeted party of soldiers was posted near the building, the Ta Tao policemen being asked to leave, which they did.

No untoward incident occurred until 1.50 p.m. when two truck-loads carrying 60 members of the same force, armed with rifles and pistols, arrived and walked across to their station, after British sentries had been withdrawn. Troops were again rushed to the scene and following a conversation between a British officer and the Chinese officer in charge of the policemen, the latter withdrew, marching along Great Western Road in an easterly direction.

At 3 p.m. Major-General F. K. Simmons, Commanding Officer of British Forces in Shanghai, arrived at the scene and remained a few minutes, talking with officers standing near the police station whilst two Japanese military photographers were busily engaged in taking pictures from a distance, particularly of the sentries in front of the station and the four truck-loads of British soldiers along Columbia Road.

The Reserve Unit of the Shanghai Municipal Police had also been ordered to stand by at Bubbling Well Police station, but was not sent to the scene as their services were not required. Amongst police officers who were there at various times during the afternoon, were Major K. M. Bourne, Commissioner, Capt. H. M. Smythe, Deputy-Commissioner in charge of Divisions and, Assistant Commissioner A. H. Samson who is temporarily in charge of "B" Division.



#### **Wiring Countermanded**

At 3.45 p.m. barbed wire was unloaded from military trucks and a group of twenty soldiers donned leather gloves to erect another barricade. They had hardly begun their work, however, when they were ordered to stop and the barbed wire was removed.

At various intervals during the afternoon, Japanese officers in plain clothes and uniforms, passed the scene in motor-cars but none of them alighted.

At 9 p.m. yesterday evening, three British sentries were stationed on the other side of Great Western Road, whilst one foreign and three Chinese members of the S.M.P. were on duty in front of the building and a tent had been pitched in a British-owned garden on the south side of Great Western Road, where British soldiers detailed for duty at that point made themselves at home.

The immediate vicinity of the station was devoid of pedestrian traffic although this had not been closed and a barbed wire barricade had been placed at the entrance of the alleyway adjoining the station, although it was so placed that persons living in the lane had free access.

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MAR 15 1939

## Ta Tao Police Patrol Evicted On Brenan Rd.

British Military Unit  
And S.M.P. Squad  
Make Request

An armed patrol composed of members of the Ta Tao police was evicted from Brenan Road, near Edinburgh Road, early last night, by the British Military authorities and the Shanghai Municipal Police, squads of both bodies making their appearance on the scene simultaneously.

It was learned from authoritative sources that the Ta Tao policemen left immediately after they had been requested to do so by a British senior military officer, and that they maintained a friendly attitude throughout the negotiations.

The incident occurred at about 8.15 p.m., when a number of Ta Tao policemen were observed patrolling Brenan Road. A truck containing a British military unit and a closed police van suddenly drove down the road, and stopped near a number of the Ta Tao police. Tommies and foreign members of the S.M.P. lined the sides of the road while an army officer spoke to the puppet officials.

After a brief conversation, the Ta Tao police left Brenan Road and entered Japanese occupied territory, through a nearby lane.

### Added Significance

Added significance to the action of the British military authorities yesterday is given by the recent objection raised by the commanding officer of the U.S. Marines, Colonel J. C. Fegan, against the invasion of the U.S. defense sector by plainclothes Japanese military policemen, and the ejection of a party of them on Sunday by Marines and members of the Shanghai Municipal police.

Although it was announced by the Shanghai Municipal Council yesterday that no formal protest had been lodged by Colonel Fegan against the irregular entry of the Japanese military police into the Settlement area, contrary to the understanding reached between the S.M.P. and the Japanese naval, military and diplomatic authorities, it was reported that feelings ran strong in Marine headquarters against what was believed to be the Council's acceptance of Japanese action.

The Council yesterday issued another communique in regard to the agreement reached with the Japanese authorities, stressing the integrity of the Shanghai Municipal Police within the Settlement.

Despite this announcement, however, it has been ascertained that Japanese military plainclothes police have made several raids in the Settlement, and at least twelve Chinese have been "kidnaped" without permission of the Settlement police.

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SHANGHAI TIMES

JAN 28 1939

## Shanghai Special Municipality Charges S. M. C. Interference

The Shanghai Municipal Council has again assumed a "challenging attitude in interfering with the functions of the Greater Shanghai Special Municipality" the "Tairiku Shimpo" charged yesterday.

According to the daily, Mr. R. W. Yorke, Assistant Commissioner of the Shanghai Municipal Police has informed the chief of the western district section of the Greater Shanghai Special Municipality that he had been ordered hereafter to prohibit entrance and passage of police constables of the Reformed Government into alley-ways on both sides of extra-settlement roads.

Questioned on receipt of a report of the order, Mr. Fu Siao-en, Mayor of the Shanghai Special Municipality, sought confirmation of the report from Mr. C. S. Franklin, Chairman of the Shanghai Municip-

al Council, who said he had not heard of it, but would inquire into it, the daily said.

Adding further fuel to the controversy, the journal asserted, it was rumoured that at meeting a few days ago, the Municipal Council had adopted a resolution stating it would not recognize collection of salt taxes by the Reformed Government on extra-settlement roads. This action would lead to non-recognition of not only salt taxes but of every other tax, the daily contended.

At a time when the closure of a western district police sub-station has not been settled, this attitude of the Municipal Council is raising trouble without cause, the daily said, adding that it is now receiving serious consideration from the Reformed Government.

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JAN 27 1933

## Japanese Oppose Badlands Control

### SMC Action On Alleys, Salt Taxes, Causes New Uproar

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
S. B. REGISTRY  
No. S. B. D. 8943  
Date 30 / 1 / 39

MEMO. 29-1-39

Comme

Sir,

Information.



Y. H. Robertson

D.C. Special Branch.

FILE

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January 18, 1939.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
S. M. C. REGISTRY  
S. B. D. 8913

TAIRIKU SHIMPO

"POPULAR BRITAIN, LOOK STRAIGHT AT THE NEW SITUATION"

The Tairiku Shimpō publishes the following leading article under the above headline:-

As reported yesterday, the British authorities are continuing to adopt a violent attitude towards the Shanghai Special Municipal Administration in the Settlement as well as on extension roads. The British authorities closed a sub-station of the Shanghai Special Municipal Administration Police Bureau on Great Western Road and insulted the five-barred flag and recently the S.M.C. authorities instructed a Divisional Officer not to permit any police constable of the Shanghai Special Municipal Administration Police to enter the side walks of extension roads. It is further reported that the other day the S.M.C. resolved not to recognize the collection of the salt tax on the extension roads by the Shanghai Special Municipal Administration.

The responsible officials of the S.M.C. hold different opinions in regard to the policy to be adopted by the S.M.C. for a majority of the officials are British who eventually decide the policy and the British Government policy is responsible for the Municipal attitude which is the same as the British attitude towards China and Japan. Why has Britain adopted such attitude?

The situation in Central China has greatly changed as a result of the fall of the Wuhan. There is no doubt that Britain is bewildered over the flight of the National Government to a corner in Szechuen. Prior to the outbreak of hostilities Central China was regarded as a field for an international economic war, but as a matter of fact it was occupied by ~~xxx~~ Britain and behind her came Germany, France and America. Britain's rival was Japan

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P. A. to D. C. (Sp. Sec.)  
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for Japan had expanded her influence to Manchuria, North China and the Yangtze Valley and this no doubt caused anxiety <sup>her</sup> to economic influence.

As a consequence, Britain, with the secret support of other Powers, began actively to promote an anti-Japanese movement which was responsible for the present situation.

It is Britain which has made China depend on European and American help to oppose Japan; she is directly responsible for the Sino-Japanese hostilities. The result of the war instigated by the British is the introduction of the influence of the Chinese Communist Party, backed up by Soviet Russia, into North-west and South-west China, Sinkiang and Kansu, although Britain and other Powers co-operating with her do not like Soviet Russia. The British policy, which is aimed at seizure of the Far East, is the cause of the present situation.

Britain should observe the present situation carefully. Even if the Yangtze River is thrown open immediately it is plain that Britain cannot retain her former position because of the privileges and rights she had secured before. A complete change has taken place in the Far Eastern situation and the fact that fighting is still going on must be taken into account. Yet the British are adopting such a childish attitude in the International Settlement. We are compelled to regard it as an act to enlarge their ambition.

Whatever may be their motive, the fate of the Foreign Settlements is like a burning candle in a blowing wind. Japan has already declared in the Diet that she will cancel her extraterritoriality in China. The existence of Foreign Settlements in China ~~are~~ harmful to her. The "Reformed Government" is gaining strength daily and the solution of the problem of the Foreign Settlement is only a question of time. If Great Britain wishes to maintain her pride of being the possessor of a vast territory, we advise her to co-operate with the "Reformed Government". It is not too late yet for her to do this.

January 27, 1939.

TAIRIKU SHIMPO

SHANGHAI POLICE  
S. M. C. STRY  
No. S. B. D. 8943  
Date

S.M.C. ADOPTS STRANGE ATTITUDE, SHANGHAI SPECIAL  
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION POLICE NOT ALLOWED TO  
ENTER EXTENSION ROADS

At this time when the incident concerning the closing of a sub-station of the Shanghai Special Municipal Administration Police Bureau on Great Western Road has not yet been settled, the S.M.C. is following blindly the attitude of the British authorities and is attempting to obstruct the activities of the Police Bureau of the Shanghai Special Municipal Administration on Municipal roads in the western District.

On January 25 Mr. Yorke, Divisional Officer of "B" Division, informed the Chief of the western District of the Shanghai Special Municipal Administration, that he had been instructed not to allow police representatives of the "Reformed Government" to patrol roads under the jurisdiction of the Municipal Council.

On receipt of this message Mayor Fu communicated with Mr. Franklin, Chairman of the S.M.C., who stated that he had no knowledge of the instructions and that he would make enquiries.

According to information received from a certain source, the Council has decided not to allow the "Reformed Government" to collect the salt revenue tax on extension roads. The "Reformed Government" is considering the situation.

*S.C.S.B.*  
*copy to D.O.*  
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*P.A. to D.O. (S.B.)*  
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*Comm*  
*for*  
*Information*  
*John Robertson*  
*D.C. (S.B.)*  
*FILE*



January 27, 1939.

Morning Translation.

Sin Shun Pao (Japanese owned Chinese language newspaper):

SHANGHAI SPECIAL MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING  
THE ADOPTION OF ACTION TO COUNTERACT UNLAWFUL  
OPPRESSION BY THE S.M.C.

A few weeks ago, the authorities of the International Settlement and the British Defence Force unlawfully closed a sub-police station of the Shanghai Special Municipal Government on Great Western Road. This action is a deliberate intent to obstruct the influence of the "Reformed Government" and the Shanghai Special Municipal Government. However, another dispute has since arisen between the S.M.C. and the "Reformed Government". On January 25 the Inspector-in-Charge of Bubbling Well Police Station sent a note to the Shanghai Special Municipal Government through the Shanghai Western District Branch of the Japanese Special Service Section, informing them of an official intimation to the effect that no policemen employed by the Shanghai Special Municipal Government are allowed to cross Settlement roads.

Upon receipt of this notice, Mayor Fu Siao-en opened negotiations with Mr. Franklin, Chairman of the S.M.C., who stated that he had no knowledge of the affair and that after enquiries he would give a reply. According to information received, the S.M.C. has decided not to recognize the collection of the salt revenue tax by the "Reformed Government". Therefore, it is anticipated that in future the S.M.C. will obstruct all tax collections by the "Reformed Government". At present the Shanghai Special Municipal Government and the "Reformed Government", with their Japanese advisors, are considering the adoption of positive steps to deal with unlawful oppression by the S.M.C.

No. S. B. D. 8143  
 Date 10/10/43

Standard -

THE CLOSING OF A DAH DAO POLICE STATION ON GREAT WESTERN ROAD

Following the closing by the British defence force of a sub-police station of the Shanghai Special Municipal Government at the corner of Great Western Road and Columbia Road in the extra-settlement road area in the Western District of Shanghai, Loo Ying (盧英), Commissioner of the puppet Police Bureau, made a report to Mayor Fu Siao-en who subsequently lodged protests with the British Consulate-General and the S.M.C.

Of late, it has been widely reported in Japanese circles that the sub-police station had already resumed functioning and that the Shanghai Special Municipal Government was collecting taxes in the western area.

Our reporter made an investigation in the district and found the said sub-police station still closed, while the puppet policemen who had been staying in a small house next to the station had disappeared. Thus the Japanese reports are all untrue.

Ref. No. 2. 2000/CS23.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE S. B. REGISTRY No. S. B. D. Date	SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE S. B. REGISTRY Form A No. 2. 2000/2323 Date 1/1/39
---	--

Headquarters,  
Shanghai Municipal Police,  
January 11, 1939.

SUBJECT

Closing down of Great Western Road Sub-Police Station  
by British Military Authorities

The Commissioner presents his compliments to The Secretary, S.M.C.  
and begs to forward herewith the following documents relative to the  
subject referred to above

1. **Copies of translations of Japanese newspaper cuttings.**
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

F

A.C. This  
A.C. Sp. B.  
A.O. B.

hl

MR. R

Mainichi.

January 10, 1939.

TAKE DEFINITE STEPS TOWARDS BRITAIN'S CHALLENGE-LIKE  
ACT - JAPANESE PEOPLE FRETTING AT THE OVER PRUDENCE  
OF THE AUTHORITIES".

The incident caused by the unlawful closing of a Chinese sub-police station on Great Western Road on the orders of the Commander of the British Defence Force must be interpreted not only as wilful disregard of the Shanghai Special Municipal Government by the British authorities but also as a challenge to Japan which is supporting the Government. Five days have elapsed since the incident took place, yet the Shanghai Special Municipal Government has not taken any steps through over-prudence. The delay in taking proper steps is causing a section of educated Chinese and Japanese residents to hold the view that effective and suitable steps should be taken immediately in order to give a lesson to Britain for she is growing too presumptuous. It is said that the Shanghai Special Municipal Government will lodge a strong protest with the British authorities after a careful investigation has been made. A pre-war-established police station has been closed by force and delay in dealing with the unlawful action of the British soldiers would mean tacit consent. For this reason, both Chinese and Japanese residents are holding strong views about the matter. It is reported that a number of important Japanese and Chinese residents are considering the holding of a mass meeting to encourage the authorities.

Mainichi:

January 10, 1939.

"MAJOR ASHMORE'S STATEMENT : ENGLISH PAPER PUBLISHES  
CONTRADICTORY STATEMENT : BRITAIN'S AUDACIOUS ATTITUDE"

High officials of the "Reformed Government," Japanese residents and Chinese supporters of the "Reformed Government" have become highly indignant over the closing of a Chinese sub-police station on Great Western Road. On January 9, the "China Press", an English language paper, bluntly published an article containing a denial of our report on the violent action committed by the British soldiers.

According to the article of the "China Press", Major Ashmore, Commander of a section of the British Defence Force, on that day stated as follows regarding the incident:-

(1) The closing of the police station was not effected by the British soldiers but by the police officers of the station.

(2) That no photograph of Premier Konoye was seen on the wall when the British soldiers left (?) entered) the station.

(3) That there certainly was a five-barred flag, but a British soldier carefully took it down and handed it to a Chinese police officer.

(4) That no police officer was assaulted.

Thus Major Ashmore has denied everything. However, a reporter of this paper has seen with his own eyes a five-barred flag which had been hacked to pieces and a photograph of Premier Konoye soiled with mud. Does Major Ashmore mean to say that all this had been done by the police officers of the station? A police officer informed

- 2 -

our reporter that he had been kicked by British soldiers. What about this? Major Ashmore is not a soldier; he is a liar who cannot distinguish black from white. It is to be hoped that the Shanghai Special Municipal Government will lodge a strong protest as early as possible and our authorities, at whom mud has been thrown, should take immediate and suitable steps in the matter.

Certified true copy

*A. C. Cardley*  
THJ/

Mainichi:

January 10, 1939.

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

File No.

S. S. REGISTRY

S.1, Special Branch, *Station 43*

REPORT

Date *January 15/6, 1939. 39*

Subject Great Western Road Outpost of the Western District  
Branch of the Police Bureau of the "Shanghai City  
Government" - closed by British Military

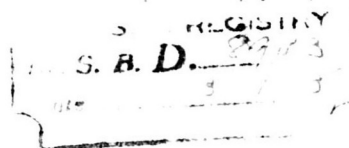
Made by                      and Forwarded by D.I. Crawford

The Great Western Road Outpost (No.1173 Great Western Road) of the Western District Branch of the Police Bureau of the "Shanghai City Government" (92 Jessfield Road) was closed by the British Military on January 5, 1939. This outpost was first established sometime in 1930 by the former Shanghai City Government and staffed with one officer and some ten constables. The staff of the branch police offices within the British Perimeter were disarmed by the British Military during August 1937, when the Japanese Forces continued their drive on Chapei, but the disarmed members were allowed to stay on the premises until November 1, 1937 when they evacuated. When the so-called "Shanghai Dao Dao City Government" (now known as "Shanghai City Government") was inaugurated in December, 1937, the outpost in question was again occupied by the Police Bureau of the said government and has since been functioning until its recent closure by the British Military.

*C. Crawford*  
D. I.

FILE

D.C. (Special Branch).



CHINA PRESS

JAN 13 1939

**No Protest Made Yet  
On British Closure  
Of "Ta Tao" Station**

Up to a late hour last night no protest has been received by the local British authorities from the "Provisional Government" with regard to the closing of a puppet police station on Great Western Road by the British military.

It is believed, however, that if such a protest will be made by the Nanjing puppet regime, it will be ignored.

It is further reported that a note, the nature of which was not disclosed yesterday, was received by the British Consul-General from "Mayor" Pu Fung-shan, head of the "Municipality of Greater Shanghai."

A party of East Surreys closed and barred a "Ta Tao" police post on Great Western Road, near Columbia Road, on the morning of January 5. The post was closed, it was stated, because it was on a Settlement Road and consequently well within the British defense sector.

FILE

Q137

January 11, 1939.

MAINICHI



"SHANGHAI SPECIAL MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT LODGES A STRONG  
PROTEST WITH BRITISH CONSUL-GENERAL AGAINST  
UNLAWFUL ACT OF BRITISH SOLDIERS"

In connection with the unlawful action of the British soldiers in closing a police sub-station on Great Western Road, Mr. Fu Siao En, Mayor of the Shanghai Special Municipal Government, lodged a protest with the British Consul-General on January 10. On the evening of the same day the Mayor called on Mr. Franklin at the S.M.C. and requested him to settle the incident amicably. Mr. Franklin replied that the S.M.C. had nothing to do with the incident because it was caused by British soldiers alone.

It is expected that the Shanghai Special Municipal Government will lodge a strong protest with the Commander of the British Defence Force in a day or two.

Tairiku Shimpō

"Reformed Government" to adopt strong attitude towards  
unlawful action of the British soldiers in Shanghai

A telegram from Nanking reports that upon receiving a detailed report from the Shanghai Special Municipal Government on the unlawful closing of a police sub-station on Great Western Road in Shanghai by the British troops, the "Reformed Government" has become highly indignant and resolved to adopt a strong attitude. Consequently, the Minister of Foreign Affairs has decided to lodge a strong protest with the British authorities in Shanghai. The "Reformed Government" will adopt strong measures should Britain regard the "Reformed Government" as a puppet and ignore established facts, or take action obstructing the development of the Government.

*Dec 13*  
*usual distribution*  
*3.9.39*  
P. A. to D. C. (2p B.)

**SHANGHAI TIMES.**

**JAN 1 1 1939**

**REPORT ON POLICE  
STATION CLOSING**

NANKING, Jan. 10. A report from Mr. Fu Shao-en, Mayor of the Greater Shanghai Special Municipality, concerning the closing of a police sub-station by the British military authorities in Shanghai, has been received by Reformed Government officials, and they are studying the matter, it was announced this evening. — Domei.

FILE

64

CHINA PRESS

JAN 10 1939

RECEIVED  
S. S. REGISTRY  
No. S. B. D.  
Date

## Hongkew Paper Claims British Army "Bandits"

Military Authorities  
Stand By Statement  
In CHINA PRESS

Charges made by the Hongkew Japanese daily Tairiku Shimpō that British soldiers in closing the "Ta Tao" police station at Great Western Road last Thursday had committed "banditry" were ignored yesterday by the British Military authorities.

British army chiefs, it was learned last night, had nothing to add to the statement published yesterday morning in THE CHINA PRESS on the matter, and they could see no reason to discuss it further.

In an interview with THE CHINA PRESS, Brigade-Major B. H. Ashmore previously denied that alleged vandalism had been committed by troops in his charge during the closure of the station.

It was denied that a five-barred flag was torn up, and that a clod of mud had been flung at a picture of Prince Konoye, said by Japanese newspapers to have been hanging on the wall of the station.

### Carried Out Quietly

It was also stated that the closure of the station had been carried out quietly, and during the performance of their duties, the British soldiers had maintained most amicable relations with officers of the "Ta Tao" government.

The station was closed, it was pointed out during the course of the interview, because it faced an outside road within the British Military sector.

### Japanese Attack

The Tairiku Shimpō yesterday bewailed the attitude taken by the British military authorities concerning the closing of the Great Western Road sub-police station of "Greater Shanghai Municipality" last Thursday.

Branding it as "banditry," the newspaper stated that the British military authorities, by contending that Britain did not recognize the "Greater Shanghai Municipality,"

were trying to justify their action "by insulting the five-barred flag of the 'Reformed Government' atop the police sub-station."

"How can they possibly explain their generosity in allowing the same flag to be hoisted atop the Customs building on the Bund?", the daily queried. "They maintain the illegality of the location of the police station on an extension road. Then why don't they close up the Japanese gendarmerie sub-station on extension roads in Western Shanghai?" asks the Japanese editorial.

### Survey Given

Giving an historical survey of the acquisition of the extension roads, the Japanese daily pointed out that legally, the Shanghai Municipal Council was not empowered to exercise administrative rights, including policing and taxation, in alleyways and lanes abutting upon extension roads and over the houses on and facing these streets, not to speak of the roads proper.

"The British authorities committed vandalism under the pretence that they executed a right delegated to them. They resorted to violence without any notice whatever to the Municipal Council authorities, and we are at a loss to find better terms than to describe their action as a grave insult which cannot be ignored in the light of law as well as morality," declared the daily.

"The incident concerns directly the 'Greater Shanghai Municipality,' which it is hoped, will take appropriate measures against the British authorities. We would like to notify the British authorities that we Japanese, as the closest friend of the 'Reformed Government,' have a strong determination, and are fully prepared to deal with wrong-doers. It all depends on the future attitude of the British authorities," concluded the Tairiku Shimpō.

FILE

10/

17

January 10, 1939.

Afternoon Translation.

News Digest and other local newspapers :-

MAJOR ASHMORE'S STATEMENT ON THE CLOSING OF POLICE  
STATION ON GREAT WESTERN ROAD.

In connection with the action of the British military authorities in closing the Western District Police Station of the Police Bureau on Great Western Road near Columbia Road on the morning of January 5, the Japanese newspapers in Shanghai have been publishing articles attacking the action of the British military authorities and declaring that the destruction of the photograph of Prince Konoye, the former Premier of the Japanese Government, constituted an insult to Japan.

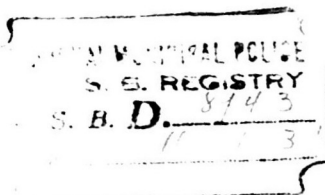
On January 8, Major Ashmore issued the following statement on the closing of the police station in question :-

"On the morning of January 5, acting on orders, I proceeded to the Western District to close the police station of the Police Bureau. I led a party to execute the order. It was the policemen themselves who removed their uniforms etc. I was present at the time but I did not see any photograph of Prince Konoye nor of any other printed photos or documents.

As to the five-barred flag, the British soldiers handed it to a policeman. At the time of closing the house, the British soldiers did nothing insulting to the policemen or embarrassing to them. Deputies of the Japanese newspaper organizations took photographs of the place and made an investigation; they may know the truth. What is being said in the Japanese newspapers is entirely untrue. It is reported that the bogus government will lodge a protest with me and this may probably materialize.

"I did meet a Japanese gentleman who asked me to give a reason for closing the police station. I told him that as the site of the police station of the Police Bureau is located in the Settlement and furthermore as the place lies within the defence sector of the British defence force, we had the right to close it and its closing was not improper. I told the Japanese gentleman that the British soldiers have always observed neutrality in their defence sector since the outbreak of local hostilities in 1937 and no army of any nationality were allowed to pass through this sector. On the withdrawal of the Chinese forces from Shanghai, the Chinese soldiers that sought shelter in the Settlement were allowed to pass through the British defence sector only after they had been disarmed. This is impartial. It would be too far fetched to say that the closing of the police station was directed against the Japanese."

FILE



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*At the Settlement, after the  
closing of the Police Bureau  
and the removal of the  
photographs*

*12*



FM. 1

Memorandum.

POLICE FORCE.  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

To C/A Richards. Jan 16. 1933. Sp. Br. Reg.

Herewith file No D. 8943 on  
the closing of the Chinese  
Police Station on Great Western  
Road by the British Military.  
The Central Registry file on  
the same subject is F 2400/2323.

H. C. Randley.

MEMO.

Commr

Sir

Information:  
usual distribution.

See set 11/1/23



Wm Robertson

D.C. Special Branch.

January 8, 1939.

TAIRIKU SHIMPO

"CLOSING OF CHINESE POLICE STATION ON GREAT  
WESTERN ROAD BY BRITISH SOLDIERS"

A representative of the Shanghai Special Municipal Government requested an interview with Major-General Telfer-Smollett, Commander of the British Defence Force, on January 5, but the request was rejected. On January 6, the representative was received by Major Ashmore.

In the course of the interview, Major Ashmore stated to the representative that the police station in question was closed because it was located on a Municipal road, which is not a Chinese administrative area for it is located in the British sector. Furthermore, the Shanghai Special Municipal Government's Police Bureau is not recognized by Britain.

The representative stated to the British officer that the police station in question had existed at that place prior to the hostilities and that the station had been taken over by the new city government for more than a year. He asked on what ground the British authorities, without giving any notice beforehand, had closed the station. He held the British authorities responsible for the humiliation caused to his national flag.

The British officer replied that it was the right of the British authorities to close the station at any time when found necessary and that there was no necessity to give notice beforehand. The officer stated that as regards the flag affair an investigation would be made.

dcSB

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R.A.M.D.C. (S. E.)

January 9, 1939

TAIRIKU SHIMPO

"WARNING TO BRITAIN AGAINST HER BANDIT-LIKE ACTION"

The Tairiku Shimpō publishes the following leading article under the above headline:-

On January 5 an armed British force ~~took~~ violently and forcibly closed a police station on Great Western Road. This station was under the control of the Shanghai Municipal Government of the "Reformed Government". Stating that they were acting under orders from Major-General Telfer-Smollett, Commander of the British Defence force, a number of British soldiers burst into the police station, forced the members of the station to move out, assaulted and kicked a constable named Chang because he had demanded the reason for their action, threw into the mud the photograph of Premier Konoye which was hanging on a wall, tore a printed copy of Premier Konoye's declaration, flung the chairs, tables, and other furniture out to the porch, lowered a five-barred flag from the top of the station and nacked it to pieces. After thus behaving like bandits, the soldiers left the place.

This action was committed by the Shanghai Defence Force of Great Britain which has always been proud of its good behavior; it was carried out on the orders of the Commander.

The police station on Great Western Road was established several years ago by the National Government for the maintenance of peace and order in that district. Following the outbreak of hostilities, Shanghai fell into the hands of the Japanese Imperial army. On December 5, 1937 the Shanghai Wah Dao Government was formed, since when the police station in question had been maintaining

(2)

peace and order in that district for three years as a police station of the Dah Dao Government. Thus, the authorities of the various Powers as well as the S.M.C. had recognized the existence of this police station. This station had won the highest respect and confidence of the people in the district.

The British authorities resorted to armed force in closing this police station because it stood facing an extension road. The action was taken in the belief that the extension roads areas are being treated in the same way as the International Settlement is being treated.

During the Taiping Rebellion of 1850 the Settlement authorities planned to expand the Settlement by building extension roads and the Land Regulation was revised in 1866 when the authorities secured rights to build extension roads without limit. From the very beginning the authority of the S.M.C. on the roads had been limited. There is no clear legal stipulation by which the S.M.C. authorities may exercise police authority, collect taxes from houses adjoining extension roads and from houses located on them. From an examination of the various issues raised in the past regarding extension roads, we find out that they had been handled in accordance with precedents which had been created improperly by the S.M.C. in favour of foreign interests. This was possible because of the weakness of the Chinese Government of those times.

The National Government has already moved into mountainous Szechuen Province and now controls a few provinces only; it has, in fact, become a local authority.

A "Reformed Government" has been formed in

(3)

Central China and in this area the people are able to live peacefully and conduct business in safety. When the situation had improved, the British authorities exercising the police authority entrusted to them, and without giving any notice to the S.M.C., committed an act in which force was used and which is no different from the act of a bandit. This is a contemptuous act from the moral and the legal points of view.

The British authorities maintain that they have not yet recognized the "Reformed Government". Then why did they permit the Customs to hoist the five-barred flag? They argue that existence of the police station on that site was illegal. Then <sup>why</sup> did they not raise any question about the existence of the sub-station of our Gendarmerie on an extension road in the Western District? The "Reformed Government" was formed in close friendship with Japan. It has not been in existence very long, but with the assistance of Japan it is daily making great improvement in all directions. The British authorities, who are not blind, must be aware of this. They have a full knowledge of the true situation, yet they have committed such an act. We can only regard it as a British challenge, as an attempt to bring contempt upon Japan and in the hope of restoring the waning influence of Great Britain and France in the Foreign Settlements and to extend their power over the Yangtse River zone.

Britain has hastily concluded that Japan is face to face with a crisis because of the change of Cabinet. After consulting with America, she made a small loan to the National Government to encourage the anti-Japanese regime; she believes that China has completely recovered her fighting

(4)

power. In view of all this, we conclude that Britain took this action in contempt of Japan, believing that Japan is not in a position to interfere with the activities of anti-Japanese elements in the Foreign Settlements or with the assistance rendered to the Chungking Government by Britain.

Naturally the Shanghai Special Municipal Government is much concerned over the incident and will take proper steps with the British authorities. We wish to notify that should the British authorities adopt an unsatisfactory attitude over the incident, our authorities, as close friends of the "Reformed Government", are determined and prepared to deal with the offending party.

January 8, 1939.

MAINICHI

VIOLENT ACTION OF BRITISH SOLDIERS: DEFINITE  
STEP WARRANTED

The Shanghai Mainichi publishes the following leading article under the above headline:-

On January 5 a number of British soldiers attacked a Shanghai Special City Administration Police sub-station on Great western Road and forcibly closed it down. Further they humiliated a national flag and threw Premier Konoye's photograph in the mud. Not only the Shanghai Special City Administration but also Japan is concerned in this incident. We do not know what step our authorities are going to take regarding the incident, but we are highly indignant.

We are informed that the reasons given by the British soldiers for the Great Western Road incident are as follows:-

1. They do not recognize the Shanghai Special City Administration Police Bureau.
2. They do not recognize the location as Chinese territory.
3. The police station is situated on the boundary road.

Further they stated that no one has a right to interfere in the matter because the British army has full power to close the place at any time deemed necessary. It is a highly impolite expression from British troops who claim to know the meaning of courtesy. The outside road question has been regarded as a most difficult problem to solve from a legal point of view. For this reason, the matter was settled politically following negotiations held between the Chinese authorities and the S.M.C. However the police station in question

DCSB.  
P.A. to D.C. (B. 8)



was established when the National Government was in power, and when the military operations in Shanghai were over the Ta Tao Government retained the police station and later the Shanghai Special City Administration took it over from the Ta Tao Government. The British soldiers have closed the station without giving any notice beforehand. We regard this as a deliberate action of the worst kind on the part of the British soldiers. Especially considering the violent manner of their action, the Japanese authorities should take a definite step.

We do not consider this incident as a mere small matter, but regard it as a policy adopted by Britain to assist Chiang Kai Shek and to oppose Japan. We do not know whether it was done by the British soldiers to please anti-Japanese Chinese, to humiliate the new regime in Central China and the Shanghai Special City Administration or to despise Japan. At any rate the incident cannot be overlooked by the Japanese authorities. The British authorities may attempt to make the question more complicated by bringing up the legal aspect of outside roads, but we must put this aside. Our authorities must first solve the question of violent action of the part of the British and Americans.

#### British authorities' violent action

On January 5 a number of armed British soldiers arrived at a sub-police station of the Shanghai City Administration on Great Western Road. Stating that they were acting on orders from the British Commander, the soldiers forcibly closed down the station. This incident is being watched with serious concern because it is a challenge by the British soldiers to the "Reformed Government" and the Japanese authorities.

On the afternoon of January 7, I, a reporter of this paper, visited the scene of the incident created by British soldiers to make an investigation. Upon being informed of the violent act of the British soldiers from a Chinese eyewitness who is living in the vicinity of the scene I could not help from becoming highly indignant against the British soldiers.

Alas! Policemen assaulted, Premier Konoye's photograph thrown in the mud, five barred flag lowered.

The police station on Great Western Road was erected several years ago to preserve peace and order. On December 5 last year when the Ta Tao Government was formed the Police Station in question came under its control. The police station was recognized by the authorities of various Powers as well as the S.M.C.

According to eyewitnesses and a police officer named Chang Chien Ching, at about 10 a.m. January 5 about 20 British soldiers carrying rifles with fixed bayonets arrived at the station and stated that they were acting on orders from Major-General Telfer-Smallett. They then requested Chang Chien Ching who was on duty to vacate the premises. They assaulted the officer as the latter refused to obey their order, took off Premier Konoye's photograph which was hanging on the wall and threw it on the mud, tore down the printed declaration of Premier Konoye, removed all furniture outside the office, lowered a five barred flag from the top of the house and nailed up the door. They then left the place at 11.30 a.m. after pasting a notice to the effect that the closure was carried out by order of the British Army. All furniture was placed near the porch of the office and a number of British soldiers guarded the place. when I attempted to take a photograph I was prevented by the British soldiers.

JANUARY 7, 1939.

MAINICHI

"BRITISH AUTHORITIES VIOLENTLY CLOSE DOWN TA TAO POLICE  
STATION ON GREAT WESTERN ROAD"

Great Britain has been actively engaged during the past few years in creating a rupture between Japan and China. She caused much indignation among Japanese people and Government by rendering assistance to the Chiang Kai Shek regime following the outbreak of hostilities.

On January 5 the British authorities closed down a Ta Tao Police Station on Great Western Road by means of force and in the name of the British army.

The Branch Police Station on Great Western Road was in existence prior to the outbreak of hostilities and the house number plate was affixed by the former City Government. Thus the existence of the branch police station on Great Western Road was an established fact recognized by the various authorities as well as by the S.M.C.

At 10 a.m. January 5 several armed British soldiers suddenly appeared at the police station in question and on the orders of General Smollet they closed down the station on the ground that the station is located on the boundary line.

After unlawfully removing the police officers and the furniture from the station, and lowering the five barred flag, the soldiers left the place.

Highly indignant over the action of the British soldiers, the police officers of the station reported the incident to Police Headquarters. The action of the British soldiers is regarded as a challenge to the "Reformed Government" and the Japanese authorities.

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(2)

Developments in the incident will be watched with great interest because the authorities concerned will lodge a strong protest after a careful investigation has been made; they will adopt suitable and effective measures should the offending party fail to reflect on their conduct.

"Authorities concerned hold conference to  
bring about a definite solution"

The authorities concerned held a conference until late at night on January 6 to consider the violent action of the British soldiers. They state as follows:-

"The incident is now under investigation. It is truly a most regrettable matter for Japan and Britain. We have been adopting a careful attitude to avert incidents for the sake of international friendship, but this time we are resolved to settle the matter definitely, for we cannot overlook the incident as it was created in the name of a Commander-in-chief. The British authorities have committed numberless unlawful acts themselves betraying confidence placed in them. We believe that the time has arrived to give a lesson to the British authorities for they seem to hold the view that such violent acts would be overlooked."

TAIRIKU SHIMPO

"STRANGE ACTION OF BRITISH AUTHORITIES:  
SUB-STATION OF SHANGHAI MUNICIPALITY  
POLICE BUREAU CLOSED FORCIBLY:  
REFORMED GOVERNMENT TO LODGE STRONG PROTEST."

At 10 a.m. January 5 a sub-station of the Shanghai Municipality Police Bureau on Great Western Road was closed by the British Authorities. This sub-station had been in existence prior to the outbreak of hostilities. The house bore a Chinese number plate. The British

(3)

authorities as well as the S.M.C. have always recognized the existence of the sub-station as an established fact. On January 5 by order of General Smollet of the British Defence Force, the police officers of the sub-station were requested to leave the place, the furniture was removed outside the station, the five barred flag was lowered, and the station then was closed. Their step was taken on the ground that the station is situated on a boundary road.

The Shanghai Municipality authorities have decided to lodge a strong protest with the British authorities against their unlawful action.

Mainichi:

January 7, 1939.

"SELFISHNESS REVEALED IN S.M.C. YEARLY REPORT"

The Mainichi publishes the following leading article under the above headline:-

Yesterday the S.M.C. published a yearly report on administrative work done in 1938. After reading the report on matters affecting Japanese, we had a feeling that the S.M.C. is <sup>Japan's</sup> putting us back too much, thereby giving one an unpleasant feeling.

There are several matters in the report open to discussion. Regarding the question of Hongkew, the S.M.C. expressed directly and indirectly some ill-feeling against Japan. We think the S.M.C. is acting selfishly when expressing itself in this way. Upon the outbreak of hostilities, the S.M.C. abandoned all its administrative work in the Hongkew area and took over a part of the administrative work in that area through the good will of the Japanese authorities when Shanghai was occupied by the Japanese forces. The S.M.C. seems to be unnecessarily cherishing ill-feeling against Japan over the matter and should reflect <sup>on</sup> its conduct. It is all very well to be sentimental, but they must consider what the situation would be had Hongkew been thrown open immediately. At present all sorts of anti-Japanese activities are taking place on the south side of the Soochow Creek, although the situation in the French Concession is more serious. During 1938 more than 20 anti-Japanese acts of terrorism took place on the south side of the creek and the measures adopted by the S.M.C. to deal with them were not satisfactory

*Copy not sent to Secretary J.R.*

to the Japanese authorities. The opening of Hongkew may mean an expansion of the area for anti-Japanese activities. From the military viewpoint, Hongkew is an important area and for this reason it cannot yet be opened. Furthermore, the S.M.C. will have to face a number of difficult problems should the Japanese completely reopen Hongkew. Thus, it is unwise on the part of the S.M.C. to express dissatisfaction with Japan over this matter.

We are not satisfied with the S.M.C. treatment of the interned Chinese soldiers in 1938. Properly speaking, the Japanese should demand that the S.M.C. authorities hand over the interned soldiers and execute them. The S.M.C. is treating them too nicely. This eventually caused them to create an unhappy incident in the course of which one of them was killed and the S.M.C. had to pay a sum of \$1,000 as a compassionate grant. The S.M.C. is treating anti-Japanese Chinese too kindly. Besides this, there are a number of other unsatisfactory incidents. We do not wish to make trouble with the S.M.C. by pointing out every one of them, but in the yearly report we observe that the S.M.C. had selfishly expressed dissatisfaction with Japan, therefore we hope that the S.M.C. will reflect instead of expressing dissatisfaction with Japan.

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CHINA PRESS

JAN 9 1939

## Police Station Closing Rouses Nippon Papers

Alleged Vandalism Is  
Refuted By British  
Authorities

Denying allegations in the local Japanese press that mud was thrown on a picture of Prince Ayamaro Konoye, former Premier of Japan, last Thursday when British troops closed the police sub-station of the "Greater Shanghai Municipality," Brigade Major B. H. Ashmore yesterday emphasized that there were no pictures in the sub-station at the time it was closed.

"I was in personal charge during the entire time that the dismantling of the station was being carried out," he said. "And the actual work was done by the 'Ta Tao' policemen themselves. They showed no resentment.

"No picture of Prince Konoye or anyone else was in evidence."

### Flag Carried Away

Replying to the Japanese press assertion that a five-barred flag of the "Reformed Government" was torn to pieces, he stated, "The flag was noticed just as everyone was about to depart and as an act of courtesy a British soldier took it down and handed it to the 'Ta Tao' policemen intact."

To the charge that a Chinese Constable of the "City Government" service was beaten by several British soldiers, Major Ashmore declared "The dismantling of the station was carried on in perfect orderliness and no one was molested.

The Japanese journals are further reported by a semi-official Japanese news agency to have devoted much space and to have severely criticized the British authorities for what they termed the "arrogant" attitude of Brigade Major Ashmore when he received the representative of the "Greater Shanghai Municipality."

### Japanese Called

"I received a Japanese gentleman when he called at the British Military Headquarters to ask our reasons for closing the police sub-station," Major Ashmore said, "and I told him that the station was in the British defense sector and abuts on a Municipal Road. I explained that the sub-station was closed chiefly for these reasons.

"The display of a five-barred flag in the British Defense Sector. I further told him, might be a source of provocation and was considered undesirable by the British Military Authorities.

"Then I pointed out to the Japanese gentleman that at the outbreak of the hostilities in 1937, the British troops had disarmed the Chinese troops in this district for the purpose of protecting the lives and property of foreigners and Japanese alike.

"In consequence of this previous action, I then carefully elucidated to my caller, that the British Military Authorities do not recognize the 'Ta Tao' police in this area.

"The discussions were carried on in an atmosphere of courtesy and friendliness."

"This act of vandalism should be answered by decisive steps on the part of Japan," the Shanghai Mainichi is reported by a Japanese news agency to have declared in its editorial yesterday.

"It can be said that the British authorities resorted to action of the most malignant kind," the Nippon journal is reported to have continued.

"The British Authorities," Major Ashmore stated, "in closing this police sub-station in no way directed their action against the Japanese. On the contrary they consider it the logical procedure in view of their former action in disarming the police — constables and soldiers of the National Government."

Referring to traditional British politeness, the Shanghai Mainichi concludes stating, "Unlike the actions of a trivial nature which have taken place in the past, this incident can be viewed in the same light as the 'assist Chiang Kai-shek and resist Japan' policy which Great Britain has been pursuing.

"At any rate this episode of British violence is one that should not be passed over lightly by Japan."

FILE

NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS

MAY 20 1939

# **Charges Against British Soldiers Refuted**

**"Ta Tao" Station Closed  
Without Incident**

Charges disseminated by the local Japanese press that the small party of British soldiers which closed a "Ta Tao" police station in Great Western Road last Thursday, tore a "Reformed Government" flag to pieces, threw mud at a photograph of the former Japanese Premier, Prince Konoye, and beat one of the Chinese constables attached to the station, were categorically denied yesterday by the British military authorities.

Major B. H. Ashmore, Brigade Major of the British Forces in Shanghai, who accompanied the party of soldiers when they closed the station because it was situated actually on a Shanghai Municipal road, said that the closing was effected completely without incident, the Chinese constables leaving the premises without a murmur. He denied emphatically all three allegations made by the Japanese press. There was no tearing of flags, no mud-slinging and no assault on "Ta Tao" constables.

The closing of the station and the reasons therefor were accurately reported in the "North-China Daily News" on Friday, it being emphasized that everything went smoothly and photographs being published showing the neatness with which the contents of the post were placed outside the building by the evicters.

FILE

61

## Closure of Police Station Resented

**Japanese, Chinese Said  
To Be Considering Action  
Over British Move**

Interpreting the action taken by the British soldiers in closing the Greater Shanghai Municipality police sub-station at Great Western and Columbia Road on Thursday morning as "a direct challenge to their competence," Japanese and Chinese authorities were reported by the "Shanghai Mainichi" yesterday to be incensed by the action.

The British action was described as "illegal" by the Japanese daily, which stated that the police sub-station had been established by the former Greater Shanghai Municipality before the present hostilities, and was recognized as such by Settlement and other foreign authorities. The police station bore a house number of the Greater Shanghai Municipality and not that of the S.M.C., the paper declared.

Japanese and Chinese authorities concerned were still carrying out an investigation with a view to assuming a "decisive attitude" toward the matter, the "Mainichi" stated.

Inasmuch as the step was carried out under the orders of Maj.-Gen. A. P. D. Telfer-Smollett, Commandant of the British Military Forces, the matter cannot pass unnoticed, the Japanese and Chinese officials were said to have declared in discussing the action on Friday night, according to the daily.

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CHINA PRESS.

JAN 7 1939

## Protests Not Expected On Station Case

### British Military Await No Repercussions From Puppets

No protest from the "Ta Tao Government" or its Japanese sponsors has been lodged over the closure by the British military of a puppet police station on Great Western Road at the Columbia Road intersection. Nor is any protest expected.

British military authorities contend that the station was located within the British defense sector, being off a Settlement road. Therefore, it is held, the British military were well within their rights to close the station without consulting anyone in advance.

The station was closed by order of Major-General A.P.D. Telfer-Smollett Thursday morning by Major B. H. Ashmore, Brigade Major of the British Forces here, and a party of soldiers of the East Surrey Regiment.

The station, a single-story building, was at the time occupied by several puppet policemen, all in civilian clothes. These offered no resistance and left quietly when ordered to do so.

For nearly 90 minutes the Tommies were engaged in sealing up the premises. They removed the furniture, bedding, uniforms, clothing, batons and everything else in the building and piled all articles up neatly outside on the pavement. The doors and windows were closed and locked, while those windows facing the country were sealed with barbed wire.

Notices in Chinese and English were posted. These notices, announcing that "This house has been closed by order of the British Military Forces," were still there yesterday.

Miscellaneous furniture was still on the street yesterday.

Handwritten notes and signatures, including a large '2' and '7/11'.

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS,

JAN 7 1939

**Ta Tao Police:  
Recent Action a Wise Move**

To the Editor of the  
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS"

SIR.—The action of the British military in closing the Ta Tao police station at the end of Columbia Road is very welcome, and as I presume that Edinburgh Road is likewise in the British Defence sector, perhaps action can now be taken to remove the Ta Tao policeman who, in resplendent uniform, stands around on Edinburgh Road between Yu Yuen Road and Brennan Road.

He serves no useful purpose whatever, has clearly no legal right on a Settlement road, and moreover, I am informed that he levies illegal dues on the poor Chinese shopkeepers in the vicinity.

EDINBURGH ROAD.  
Shanghai, Jan. 6.

Handwritten signature and date: 1/7/39

<b>SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE</b> <b>S. B. REGISTRY</b> <b>No. S. B. D.</b> <b>Date</b>
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NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS.

JAN 6 1939

## "Ta Tao" Station Shut by British

**Soldiers Leave Little in  
Great Western Road Post;  
Uniforms Put on Road**

Because it was actually on a Settlement road within the British Military Police sector, a station of the so-called "Ta Tao" police in Great Western Road at Columbia Road, was closed by the British military yesterday morning.

"Closed" in this case meant a thorough job. A party of British soldiers of the East Surrey Regiment, accompanied by Maj. B. H. Ashmore, Brigade Major, arrived at the scene at 10 o'clock to carry out Maj.-Gen. A. P. D. Telfer-Smollett's orders. They found the one-storey building occupied by a group of "Ta Tao" policemen, all in plain-clothes. These offered no resistance, and left quietly.

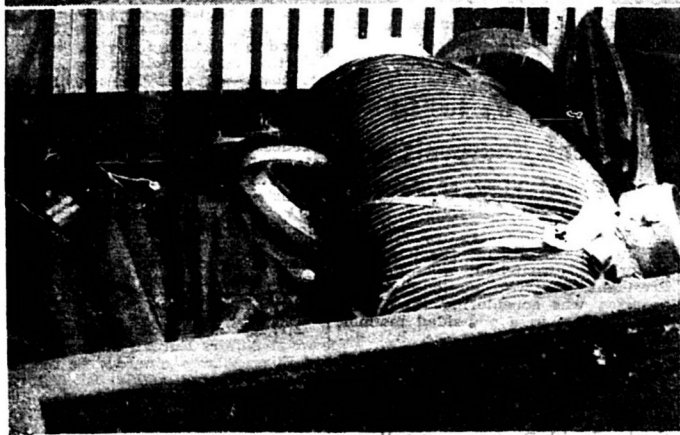
The entire eviction and sealing-up took about an hour and a half. All the furniture, bedding, uniforms, clothing, batons and what-not of the "Ta Taoists" were carried out of the rooms and placed in neat piles outside the walls. The main barred door was carefully closed and locked. Other doors and windows, including those facing the countryside behind the station, were closed and barbed wire was draped over them in thorough fashion.

### Notices Posted

Then notices, in English and Chinese, were posted prominently on the entrances. The announcement in English read: "This house has been closed by order of the British Military Forces."

All this having been accomplished, and the "Ta Tao" defenders of the law having wandered off, the party of British soldiers departed, leaving behind only the ghost of a police station.

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## Police Shootin

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### This "Police Station" Is Only a Memory Now

A party of British soldiers made short shrift of a so-called "Ta Tao Government police station" on Great Vibia Road, yesterday morning. Because the post was actually on a Settlement road in the British sector, the furnishings and trappings contained, closed and barbed-wired the place and put up notices on the doors, the eviction. In one view may be seen the uniforms and uniform caps of some of the "Ta Tao" policemen, the main door of the "police station." In another picture a Settlement constable, has a good look

boo-vaung"

*File Cup*  
*67*